

1) An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with attorney Joseph Ruch on 1/14/10.

The application has been amended as follows:

In Specification, on Page 1, below **The Title**, enter:

- This application is a 371 of PCT/SE00/00452 filed 07 March 2000 - .

Claim 1 is amended to recite as follows:

- 1. (currently amended): A method for manufacturing bleached mechanical and chemithermomechanical pulp wherein a starting material in form of lignocellulose material, preferably wood in chip form, is caused to pass through at least one preheater or through a chemical treatment system, and a steam separator, and then through a single refining stage containing one refiner or two refiners with each refiner in the single refining stage being directly followed by steam separation and with only steam separation existing between refiners, in which the lignocellulose material is converted to a pulp suspension which, subsequent to the most downstream of said steam separation, is passed at least to one storage vessel and to a screening department from which the major part of the pulp suspension is taken out as an essentially finished bleached product or is taken out and passed to further treatment stages; and in which reductive bleaching agent as the only bleaching agent is added to the advancing pulp

suspension without the use of a bleaching tower, wherein the improvement comprises adding the bleaching agent at a location downstream of the most downstream refiner and upstream of the screening department; and bleaching said pulp under at a temperature of from 80 to 95 °C and a minimized oxygen access condition at said location and immediately downstream of said location - .

Claim 11 is amended to recite as follows:

- 11. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the solid content or concentration is low at said location at which the bleaching agent is added - .

Claim 13 is amended to recite as follows:

- 13. (currently amended): A method according to claim 11, wherein the solid content or concentration is 2 to 4 % at said location - .

2) The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for allowance is that the cited prior art does not disclose: a method for making bleached mechanical and chemithermomechanical pulp that includes adding bleaching agent after the refiners and before screening at conditions of temperature range claimed and oxygen level claimed (**claim 1**); a method for making bleached mechanical and chemithermomechanical pulp that includes adding bleaching agent to reject pulp suspension after the refiners and before introducing the reject pulp suspension to the main pulp suspension flow and bleaching said pulp at temperature range claimed and oxygen level claimed (**claim 8**).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Halpern whose telephone no. is 571-272-1190.

/Mark Halpern/  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1791

**Search Notes**

Application No.

09/914,650

Examiner

Mark Halpern

Applicant(s)

ZHANG ET AL.

Art Unit

1791

**SEARCHED**

Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner
Search	Updated	1/13/2010	MH

**INTERFERENCE SEARCHED**

Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner
Same as	above	1/13/2010	MH

**SEARCH NOTES  
(INCLUDING SEARCH STRATEGY)**

	DATE	EXMR
Review of prior art references submitted with IDS of 1/6/10	1/13/2010	MH